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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6808
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1111

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: BQG, WB, UR, GW
SUBJECT: HERBERT WEHNER COMMENTS ON QUADRIPARTIT AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

SUMMARY: IN PRESS CONFERENCE IN BERLIN SPD BUNDESTAG CAUCUS CHAIRMAN WEHNER HAS CALLED FOR MODERATION IN APPLYING PROVISIONS OF QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. WEHNER ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT WISDOM OF ELECTING STOBBE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT. CDU LEADERS IN BERLIN AND FRG HAVE CRITICIZED WEHNER'S REMARKS. SENAT OFFICIALS PRIVATELY ACCEPT STATEMENTS AS "CLASSIC WEHNER," AND HAVE NOT ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE OVERLY UPSET BY THEM.

END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
1. SPEAKING AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING OF SPD BUNDESTAG CAUCUS AT REICHSTAG IN BERLIN MAY 9, SPD CAUCUS CHAIRMAN HERBERT WEHNER STATED THAT PROVISIONS OF QUADRIPARTITE
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AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE TAXED TO THEIR LIMITS, BUT SHOULD BE APPLIED WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF SELF-DISCIPLINE BY THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE. WEHNER SAID THAT CONSIDERING EVERYTHING, IT WAS REMARKABLE THAT THE QUADRIPARTIE AGREEMENT EVER CAME INTO EXISTENCE; IT HAS NONETHELESS BROUGHT ABOUT SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS TO THE CITY. THESE BENEFITS CAN BE LOST, HOWEVER, IF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT IS OVER-

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LOADED. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FEDERAL OFFICES AND THE BUILDING UP OF FEDERAL PRESENCE IS NOT, IN WEHNER'S OPINION, THE WAY TO HELP THE CITY. REAL BENEFITS FOR BERLIN CAN COME THROUGH THE DILIGENT EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES.

2. RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION WHETHER HIS STATEMENTS MEANT HE WAS AGAINST THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF TIES, WEHNER REPLIED EMPHATICALLY: "NO, NO AND ONCE AGAIN, NO*" WEHNER TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE "GENUINELY LOVES BERLIN" AND HAS WORKED DAY AND NIGHT TO SEE A POLICY IMPLEMENTED WHICH WILL PROTECT THE CITY FROM HARM.

3. IN A STATEMENT MADE PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE SPD CAUCUS ON MAY 8, WEHNER EXPRESSED HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S ASSUMING THE POSITION OF BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT THIS FALL, SAYING THAT HE, WEHNER, HIPED THE PROTESTS WHICH THIS STEP WILL UNDOUBT-EDLY GENERATE WILL NOT BE TOO HARMFUL TO THE CITY.

4. CDU NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL AND BERLIN CDU CAUCU CHAIRMAN HEINRICH LUMMER WERE QUICK TO CRITICIZE WEHNER, LUMMER CHARACTERIZED WEHNER'S QA STATEMENTS AS THE SPD'S CALL FOR RETREAT ON THE QUDRIPARTITE AGREE-MENT WHILE KOHL STRESSED THAT WEHNER'S COMMENTS ABOUT STOBBE'S ASSUMING THE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENCY WERE AN OPEN
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INVITATION TO THE SOVIET UNION AND GDR TO ATTEMPT NEW CHICANERY IN AND AROUND BERLIN. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL
5. IN CONVERSATION WITH US SENAT LIAISON OFFICER, SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HEIMANN EXPRESSED MILD CONCERN ABOUT WEHNER'S COMMENTS. HEIMANN SAID THAT THERE IS A FEELING IN THE CHANCELLERY THAT THE SOVIETS ARE GROWING ACCUSTOMED TO THE FACT THAT STOBBE WILL BE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT AND MIGHT LET ISSUE RIDE WITHOUT TOO MUCH OBJECTION. STATEMENTS SUCH AS WEHNER'S THE OTHER HAND, SUGGEST DIVISION WITHIN THE SPD'S RANKS AND COULD SERVE AS AN INVITATION TO THE RUSSIANS TO SEEK TO STIR UP TROUBLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SENAT HAS LONG SINCE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE FACT THAT HERBERT WEHNER SAYS WHATEVER HE FEELS LIKE SAYING AND DOES NOT ALWAYS REPRESENT THE VIEW OF THE PARTY MAJOR-ITY. THE SENAT IS SATISFIED THAT WEHNER'S VIEWS WILL BE TMEPERED BY OTHERS WITHIN THE SPD AND THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC'S POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO THE CITY WILL CONTINUE FAIRLY MUCH AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. CERTAINLY, THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN THAT THE SPD-FDP GOVERNMENT IS ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A MORE RESTRICTIVE

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BERLIN POLICY THAN IT HAS IMPLEMENTED IN THE PAST. END CONFIDENTIAL. GEORGE

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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014
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